secretory cells,

(d) polymerizing collagen in said semisolid bead to form a solid, agarose-collagen bead containing secretory cells, and

(e) coating said solid, agarose-collagen bead containing secretory cells with agarose.

52. The method of claim 51, wherein said secretory cells are contained in pancreatic islets.

53. The method of claim 52, wherein said pancreatic islets are human pancreatic islets, bovine pancreatic islets, rat pancreatic islets or porcine pancreatic islets.

54. The method of claim 53, wherein said pancreatic islets are human pancreatic islets.

55. The method of claim 51, wherein said secretory cells are contained in from about 50,000 to about 700,000 pancreatic islets.

56. An agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead containing secretory cells prepared by the process of claim 51.

57. The agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead of claim 56, wherein said secretory cells are contained in pancreatic

islets.

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58. The agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead of claim 56 wherein said pancreatic islets are human pancreatic islets, bovine pancreatic islets, rat pancreatic islets or porcine pancreatic islets.

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59. The agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead of claim 58, wherein said pancreatic islets are human pancreatic islets.

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60. The agarose coated, solid agarose collagen bead of claim 57, comprising from about 50,000 to about 700,000 islets.

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61. Method for treating a mammal having a condition caused by impaired secretory cell function, comprising:

transplanting into said ~~patient~~ mammal a therapeutically effective amount of the agarose coated, solid agarose-collagen bead of claim 56.

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62. The method of claim 61, wherein said condition is insulin dependent diabetes.

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63. The method of claim 62, wherein said bead contains cells derived from a pancreatic islet.